

for competition in a 21st century global economy.

I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Rex Tillerson's accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING AND THE AMERICAN GRADUATE INITIATIVE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize support for public broadcasting and the American Graduate initiative in advance of American Graduate Day on September 27th.

Each year nearly one million students fail to graduate on time, and public media is working with partners across the nation to reach a goal of a 90 percent high school graduation rate by the year 2020. With the help of the American Graduate initiative and the many other institutions and initiatives grappling with this issue, remarkable progress toward this goal has been made in recent years. American Graduate Day puts faces on the dropout numbers and increases understanding of the risks and solutions through national and local content, covering all facets of the dropout issue for broadcast, web and mobile platforms.

An October 2013 study conducted by the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins School of Education finds that the American Graduate initiative has succeeded in building community capacity to meet the national priority of ending America's high school dropout crisis. More than 80 public radio and television stations in over 30 states have joined forces with over 1000 partners and at-risk schools to shed light on the problem and share solutions. The dropout rate in the tri-state area is alarming, and I see students in my district struggling to complete their education every day; I support this important initiative that delivers real impact in our fight to end this dropout crisis.

RECOGNIZING MR. MICHAEL ELLENBOGEN AND WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of World Alzheimer's Day, my constituent, Michael Ellenbogen, wrote a touching excerpt detailing his experience with early onset Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, degenerative disorder that attacks the brain's nerve cells, or neurons, resulting in loss of memory thinking and language skills, and behavioral changes.

Alzheimer's disease is the most expensive disease in America, and is the only one of the top ten causes of death in America that can't be prevented, cured, or even slowed. It is important to work with brave people like Michael to raise awareness and take action on this issue as a legislative body. Please see Michael's touching words below:

It's been over a year since my last writing and since that time I have declined even

more. As you see, this disease is slowly robbing me of all of my skill sets and it is becoming so much harder to be a positive person in our society. I cannot even enjoy the hobbies I once loved. This is by far the worst way one can die. I cannot imagine the toll it's taking on my wife because it's like a never ending grieving process and one cannot even see the end in sight, just the horror that's coming.

Dementia, including Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease we face. It is costing us more than heart disease and cancer. I believe it to be the third cause of death in the United States. Breast cancer, heart disease and HIV have all made tremendous progress since the federal government made significant investments into research. Comparable investments must be made for Dementia so we can accomplish the same successes, while saving millions of lives and trillions of dollars.

Senator Pat Toomey recently stated at a Finance Committee Hearing that circumstances have changed historically, and as such we should be changing the way we fund this disease. I have been saying this for years.

Please make my life count and make it worthwhile for me in having this disease. I believe we could be at the tipping point. Make the hard choices; increase funding for Alzheimer's disease and reallocate existing funding sources. Do everything necessary to ensure that Alzheimer's disease gets the exposure, commitment and funding necessary to change the course of the disease.

Regards, Michael Ellenbogen.

Michael Ellenbogen—Advocate for all of those living with dementia, who can no longer speak, write, or have passed.

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday will mark history as more New Yorkers than ever before come together to demonstrate their commitment to solving the climate change crisis. During the "People's Climate March", New Yorkers from all walks of life will march through Manhattan in support of a more sustainable future. I am proud to be joining this effort. UPROSE, a grassroots environmental justice organization in my district, is one of the lead organizers in New York City. UPROSE has a long record of working on environmental issues locally and globally through community empowerment and fostering future environmental leaders. I am proud to join with them in Sunday's march.

The backdrop for the New York event will be the United Nations Summit on Climate Change, where representatives from around the globe will convene to discuss this matter. Locally, this timely event will underscore the importance of working now to preserve our planet for future generations. However, this will be a global event with actions taking place throughout the world.

From London to Rio to Johannesburg to New Delhi, people everywhere will speak with one collective voice in calling for environmental justice, an economy that works for people and the planet, clean air and good jobs. I urge all my colleagues to join in these collective actions and show their support for protecting our planet.

RECOGNIZING HERMINE REIRING

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Hermine Reiring in celebration of her 100th birthday. Hermine is part of "America's Greatest Generation," and this amazing milestone deserves to be honored.

Hermine was born on August 4, 1914, in Hammond, Indiana. During World War II, Hermine joined the U.S. Army and served three years in the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). She worked as a storekeeper in a hangar.

In 1945, Hermine married Leonard Reiring, and they built their lives together in California. They lived in San Diego and Burbank before settling in Madera in 1964. Hermine and Leonard raised three children together, and today, Hermine has eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Each day, Hermine's family has the pleasure of learning from a woman who has many special memories and life experiences to share.

The City of Madera has benefitted greatly from Hermine's efforts and service to the community. In addition to working at the Madera County Administrator's office, Hermine was also a member of the Women's Improvement Group, the Historical Society, and she volunteered as a docent for the county library. Staying active in the community is important to Hermine as she still loves to participate in bake sales and volunteer at her church.

Hermine's generation set an example for the coming together and establishing of our country in the 20th century. We have all been very fortunate to live and build from the investments and many sacrifices made by Hermine and others from her generation.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor Hermine Reiring as she celebrates this very exciting time in her life. Her service to the Madera community and the entire nation deserves to be commended.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY E. SINOPOLI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mary Sinopoli, who passed away on August 30, 2014, at the age of 93. Mary was a respected member of the Fresno community who will be greatly missed by residents throughout the Central Valley.

On December 7, 1920, Mary was born at her grandparents home on the corner of Stanislaus and F streets. She was the first child of Americo and Concetta Frediani. She attended Orange Center Elementary School, and Washington Union and Fresno Tech high schools.

Mary married George Sinopoli on May 11, 1941. They were happily married for 65 years until George's passing in 2006. Mary was a dedicated wife and a loving mother. She was